

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A filter mounting mechanism for a vacuum cleaner, comprising:
 - a receiving space in the body of a vacuum cleaner, wherein the receiving space includes sidewalls and an open first end, and wherein the receiving space is configured to receive a filter element;
 - a cover configured to cover the first end of the receiving space, wherein the cover is mountable on the receiving space; and
 - an interlock mechanism mounted on one of the cover and the receiving space, wherein the interlock mechanism is configured to prevent the cover from being mounted on the receiving space if no filter is mounted in the receiving space, and wherein the interlock mechanism is configured to allow the cover to be mounted on the receiving space if a filter is mounted in the receiving space.

2. (Original) The filter mounting mechanism of claim 1, wherein the cover comprises:
 - a planer surface that conforms to the shape of the first end of the receiving space, and

5 a side edge that extends from a periphery of the planar surface at an angle relative to the planar surface, and wherein the side edge is configured to abut the sidewalls of the receiving space when the cover is mounted on the receiving space.

3. (Original) The filter mounting mechanism of claim 2, wherein the interlock mechanism is configured such that a confirmation piece of the interlock mechanism is located at a blocking position when no filter is mounted in the receiving space, and wherein the presence of the confirmation piece at the blocking position prevents the side edge of the cover from
5 abutting the sidewalls of the receiving space.

4. (Original) The filter mounting mechanism of claim 1, wherein interlock mechanism include a confirmation piece that is movable between a blocking position and a mounting position, wherein when a filter is mounted in the receiving space, the confirmation piece is located at the mounting position, which allows the cover to be mounted on the receiving space, and wherein when no filter is mounted in the receiving space, the confirmation piece is located at the blocking position, which prevents the cover from being mounted on the receiving space.

5. (Original) The filter mounting mechanism of claim 4, wherein the interlock mechanism includes an elastic member that urges the confirmation piece toward the blocking position.

6. (Original) The filter mounting mechanism of claim 1, wherein the interlock mechanism is mounted on the cover.

7. (Original) The filter mounting mechanism of claim 6, wherein the cover also includes a filter mounting portion that is configured to allow a filter to be mounted to the cover.

8. (Original) The filter mounting mechanism of claim 7, wherein the interlock mechanism includes a confirmation piece that is movable between a blocking position and a mounting position, wherein when a filter is mounted on the cover, the confirmation piece is located at the mounting position, which allows the cover to be mounted on the receiving space,
5 and wherein when no filter is mounted on the cover, the confirmation piece is located at the blocking position, which prevents the cover from being mounted on the receiving space.

9. (Original) The filter mounting mechanism of claim 8, wherein the interlock mechanism further comprises an elastic member that urges the confirmation piece towards the

blocking position, and wherein the act of mounting a filter on the cover causes the confirmation piece to move to the mounting position against the action of the elastic member.

10. (Original) The filter mounting mechanism of claim 9, wherein the cover comprises:

a planer surface that conforms to the shape of the first end of the receiving space, and

5 a side edge that extends from a periphery of the planar surface at an angle relative to the planar surface, and wherein the side edge is configured to abut the sidewalls of the receiving space when the cover is mounted on the receiving space.

11. (Original) The filter mounting mechanism of claim 10, wherein when the confirmation piece of the interlock mechanism is located at the blocking position, the confirmation piece prevents the side edge of the cover from abutting the sidewalls of the receiving space.

12. (Original) The filter mounting mechanism of claim 1, wherein the cover includes a filter mount that allows a filter to be rotatively mounted to the cover.

13. (Original) The filter mechanism of claim 12, wherein the interlock mechanism includes a confirmation piece that is located at a blocking position when no filter is mounted on the cover, and wherein the act of rotatively mounting a filter on the filter mount causes the confirmation piece to move to a mounting position that allows the cover to be mounted on the receiving space.

14. (Original) The filter mechanism of claim 13, wherein the interlock mechanism further comprises an elastic member that urges the confirmation piece towards the blocking position.

15. (Original) The filter mechanism of claim 13, wherein the interlock mechanism of claim 13 includes an engagement portion configured to interact with a radially extending protrusion on a filter, and wherein the engagement portion is configured such that when a filter is rotatively mounted on the cover, the radially extending protrusion on the filter causes a movement of the interlock mechanism which causes the confirmation piece to be located at the mounting position.

16. (Original) The filter mounting mechanism of claim 12, wherein the filter mount on the cover includes a rotation prevention projection that is configured to prevent a filter from being rotated onto the filter mount past a prescribed point.

17-20. (Cancelled)

21. (New) A vacuum cleaner, comprising:

a body having both an air suction port for receiving dust-laden air under pressure and an air exhaust port for discharging the air from the body to the atmosphere after filtering the air;

a suction unit provided within said body and generating a suction force for sucking the dust-laden air into the body;

a dust collecting case for cyclonically collecting impurities from the dust-laden air introduced into said body through the air suction port, thus removing them from said air, said dust collecting case being detachably installed within said body;

a filter member mountable in said dust collecting case and communicating with said air suction port and said air exhaust port; and

an interlock mechanism configured to control an installation of said dust collecting case into said body, wherein the interlock mechanism prevents the installation of the dust collecting case into the body if said filter member is not mounted in the dust collecting case.

22. (New) A vacuum cleaner, comprising:

a body;

an operable cyclone dust collection casing detachably installed into said body;

an air inlet port formed on a sidewall of said casing such that the air inlet port introduces dust-laden air under pressure into the casing while forming a cyclone of the air within said casing;

an air exhaust port provided at a top end of said casing for discharging the air from the casing to the atmosphere;

a dust collecting filter mountable into said casing for filtering the air before the air is discharged from the casing to the atmosphere through the air exhaust port; and

an interlock mechanism in said dust collection casing, wherein said interlock mechanism is configured to prevent said dust collection casing from being installed into said body if said dust collecting filter is not mounted in said dust collection casing.

23. (New) A vacuum cleaner, comprising:

a body including an air suction port for receiving dust-laden air through a suction hose connected at an end of the body and an air exhaust port for discharging the air from the body after filtering the air;

a suction unit installed within the body for providing a driving force for causing air to be introduced into and discharged from the body;

a cyclone dust collector detachably installed from the outside of the body directly into the body;

fastening means for mounting and fastening the dust collector to the body;

a filter member mountable in said dust collector and communicating with said air suction port and said air exhaust port; and

an interlock mechanism configured to confirm whether said filter member is mounted in said dust collector.

24. (New) A vacuum cleaner, comprising:

a body including an air suction port for receiving dust-laden air through a suction hose connected at an end of the body and an air exhaust port for discharging the air from the body after filtering the air;

a suction unit installed at a portion within the body for providing a driving force for causing air to be introduced into and discharged from the body;

a cyclone dust collector detachably installed from the outside of the body directly into the body;

a filter member mountable in said dust collector and communicating with said air suction port and said air exhaust port; and

an interlock mechanism including a confirmation piece which associates with said filter and confirms whether said filter member is mounted in said dust collector when the dust collector is mounted on the body.